

2009 Conservative Religious Activist Survey
Final Topline Results
N=1,123

1. In your judgment, how important was the 2008 election to the future of the country?

<i>Very Important</i>			<i>Somewhat Important</i>			<i>Not at all Important</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(5)</i>	<i>(6)</i>	<i>(7)</i>	<i>--</i>
78	15	3	2	1	*	*	1

2. Overall, what impact do you think the results of the 2008 election will have on American society?

<i>Very Positive</i>			<i>Mixed Results</i>			<i>Very Negative</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(5)</i>	<i>(6)</i>	<i>(7)</i>	<i>--</i>
1	2	2	14	12	24	45	*

3. Regarding expressions of religious faith and prayer by political leaders in 2008 was there:

2	Too much
24	About the right amount
68	Too little
<u>6</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

4. In your opinion, how much influence did the following groups have on the 2008 election results?

	<i>Great Influence</i>		<i>Some Influence</i>		<i>Little Influence</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
	<i>(5)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(1)</i>	<i>--</i>
a. Gay rights groups	35	29	24	7	3	2
b. Religious conservative groups	3	10	46	25	13	3
c. Labor unions	50	26	16	3	1	4
d. Business groups	8	20	40	18	7	7
e. African American groups	47	27	18	4	1	3
f. Gun owner groups	2	11	37	29	16	5
g. Religious progressive groups	7	18	40	20	9	6

5. In your opinion, what is the *most* important thing religious conservatives should do to maintain or increase their influence in national politics?

34	Be visible and publicly influential
22	<i>Speak out, Act</i>
7	<i>Serve as an example</i>
5	<i>Organize</i>
23	Be politically active
16	Pray and be active
9	<i>Pray</i>
7	<i>Pray and act</i>
7	Advance conservative/traditional values
5	Focus on cultural issues
6	Other/Misc
9	Refused
100	Total

6. Some leaders have argued that religious people should withdraw from politics and re-dedicate themselves to non-political pursuits. What is your view on this matter?

<i>Should withdraw for non-political activities</i>			<i>Do some of both</i>	<i>Stay focused on political action</i>			<i>Ref.</i>
<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(5)</i>	<i>(6)</i>	<i>(7)</i>	
*	*	1	18	8	11	61	-- 1

7. Some leaders have argued that religious people should shift their focus to new issues, such as the environment and poverty rather than focus on social issues, such as abortion and marriage. What is your view on this matter?

<i>Shift focus to environment and poverty</i>			<i>Focus on both kinds of issues</i>	<i>Stay focused on social issues</i>			<i>Ref.</i>
<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(5)</i>	<i>(6)</i>	<i>(7)</i>	
1	*	*	27	8	14	49	-- 1

8. What should be the *main* goal for religious people when they engage in politics?

35	To proclaim their distinctive values
22	To correct specific social problems
37	To transform the society overall
6	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

9. Which of the following statements comes closest to your views?

- 69 Political action by religious people can help restore traditional morality in America
- 24 Political action by religious people is unlikely restore traditional morality in America, but it may slow the process of deterioration
- 3 Political action by religious people will do little to restore traditional morality in America
- 4 Refused (VOL.)
- 100 Total

10. Overall, what worries you more:

- 87 Public officials who don't pay enough attention to religion
- 6 Public officials who are too close to religious leaders
- 7 Refused (VOL.)
- 100 Total

PRIORITIES AND ISSUES

11. How important is it for religious people to focus on the following issues?

	<i>The most Important</i> (1)	(2)	<i>Not Sure</i> (3)	(4)	<i>Not at all Important</i> (5)	<i>Ref.</i>
a. Poverty/Homelessness	23	53	9	8	1	6
b. Abortion	83	12	1	*	1	3
c. The Iraq War	15	37	23	14	5	6
d. The environment	6	26	21	28	14	5
e. Health care	10	38	24	17	5	6
f. Immigration	26	37	17	11	3	6
g. Same-sex marriage	65	22	3	3	3	4
h. Jobs/the economy	21	41	18	10	4	6

12. Which of these statements comes *closest* to your view of the proper legal status of marriage?

- 82 The law should define marriage as a union between one man and one woman
- 15 The law should define marriage as a union between one man and one woman, but recognize legal agreements between same-sex couples
- 1 The law should define marriage as a union between two people regardless of their gender
- 2 Refused (VOL.)
- 100 Total

13. Which of the following statements *best* describes your view on abortion?

- * Legal in all cases
- 2 Legal in most cases
- 35 Illegal in most cases
- 60 Illegal in all cases
- 3 Refused (VOL.)
- 100 Total

14 Which of the following statements comes *closest* to your view on the war in Iraq?

35 It was completely justified
48 It was probably justified
11 It was probably unjustified
3 It was completely unjustified
3 Refused (VOL.)
100 Total

15. Which of these statements comes *closest* to your view?

89 The U.S. should keep its troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized
7 The U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible
4 Refused (VOL.)
100 Total

16. Do you think the use of torture against suspected terrorists in order to gain important information is:

25 Often justified
36 Sometimes justified
19 Rarely justified
15 Never justified
5 Refused (VOL.)
100 Total

17. Who do you think is *most* responsible for the current economic crisis?

23 Corporations that were greedy and made risky business decisions
39 Government that neglected its duty and allowed unethical business practices
28 Individuals who were careless and borrowed more money than they could afford
10 Refused (VOL.)
100 Total

18. Where do you stand on government spending and services?

<i>Provide fewer services and cut spending</i>					<i>Provide more services and increase spending</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(5)</i>		
62	24	11	1	*		-- 2

19. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

22 Tax cuts should be directed at lower income people to increase fairness
61 Tax cuts should be direct at upper income people to increase economic growth
17 Refused (VOL.)
100 Total

20. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

85	Large tax cuts are good for the economy because they encourage necessary investment and create jobs
7	Large tax cuts are bad for the economy because they cause budget deficits and prevent necessary government spending
8	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.21 HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

22. What are your views on the following issues?

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
a. The federal government should spend more to reduce poverty and hunger in the U.S. even if it means raising taxes on the middle class	1	9	14	36	35	5
b. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
c. Homosexuals should have all the same rights and privileges as other Americans	8	25	11	19	30	7
d. The U.S. should support Israel over the Palestinians in the Middle East	45	28	14	6	3	4
e. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
f. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
g. More environmental protection is needed even if it raises prices or costs jobs	2	11	19	34	31	3
h. The government should ban all scientific research involving stem cells from human embryos	71	13	6	4	3	3
i. The U.S. should have comprehensive national health insurance even if it means fewer choices for patients	2	4	9	24	58	3
j. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
k. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
l. Given the threat of terrorism, the U.S. must be able to take preemptive military action against other countries	39	35	16	5	1	4

GENERAL POLITICAL VIEWS

23. Overall, how would you describe your views on political issues?

<i>Extremely Conservative</i>			<i>Moderate</i>			<i>Extremely Liberal</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	--
27	48	16	5	*	*	*	4

24. How would you describe your political partisanship?

<i>Strong Democrat</i>			<i>Pure Independent</i>			<i>Strong Republican</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	--
*	*	1	8	17	39	28	7

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25. I tend to strongly support my party:

12	Under all circumstances
47	Only when it offers a candidate I believe in
31	Only when it pursues issues important to me
3	Only when the opposition is inferior
*	Only when it has a real chance of winning
<u>7</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

26. Who was your first choice for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination?

17	John McCain
22	Mitt Romney
28	Mike Huckabee
8	Fred Thompson
15	Other
1	None
<u>9</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

27. Who was your first choice for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination?

3	Barack Obama
8	Hillary Clinton
1	John Edwards
8	Other
31	None
<u>49</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

28. Who did you vote for in the 2008 presidential election?

4	Barack Obama
90	John McCain
1	Other
*	Did not vote
<u>5</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

29. Which of the following statements *best* describes the relationship of your religious faith to your voting decision in 2008?

63	My faith was more important to my voting decision than other factors
29	My faith was about as important to my voting decision as other factors
3	My faith was less important to my voting decision than other factors
2	My faith was not at all important to my voting decision
<u>3</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

30. Which of the following statements comes *closest* to your view?

36	America has always been and is currently a Christian nation
57	America was a Christian nation in the past, but it is not now
3	America has never been a Christian nation
4	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

31. How involved were you in the following political campaigns in 2008?

	<i>Very Active</i>		<i>Somewhat Active</i>		<i>Not Active</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	--
a. Presidential general election	12	13	32	17	20	6
b. Presidential primary campaign	10	12	27	19	25	7
c. Congressional campaigns	7	11	28	20	26	8
d. Statewide campaigns	6	10	25	22	29	8
e. Local campaigns	5	10	22	19	35	9
f. Ballot issues	8	12	22	16	34	8

32. Did you engage in any of these political activities in the 2008 or 2004 elections?

	<i>Yes, in 2008</i>	<i>Yes, in 2004</i>
a. Campaigned door-to-door	4	6
b. Made a campaign donation	76	65
c. Contacted public officials	51	40
d. Participated in a protest	7	5
e. Engaged in fundraising	15	13
f. Served as party official	3	3
g. Passed out voter guides	21	18
h. Joined a political group	12	9
i. Made campaign phone calls	8	8
j. Wrote letter to editor	14	12
k. Attended campaign rally	16	13
l. Ran for public office	1	1
m. Signed a petition	55	44
n. Participated in a boycott	16	14
o. Attended public meeting	21	17
p. Registered new voters	6	6
q. Canvassed churches	6	5
r. Organized campaign event	2	2

33. In 2008 campaign season, did you do any of the following things? *Please check all that apply.*

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
a. Emailed a candidate or campaign	36	64
b. Signed an online petition	42	58
c. Read a political blog	43	57
d. Participated in a live webchat	4	96
e. Listened to a campaign podcast	12	88
f. Emailed information to friends	51	49
g. Discussed politics on a social networking site	12	88
h. Signed up to receive political emails	33	67
i. Make a political donation online	31	69
j. Written about politics on a blog	14	86
k. Viewed a political video online	37	63
l. Participated in a meet-up	4	96
m. Downloaded voter guides	22	78

34. In what year did you first become actively involved in politics?

9	2000-2008
8	1990-1999
15	1980-1989
14	1970-1979
16	1960-1969
6	1950-1959
5	Before 1950
<u>27</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.35 HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

36. Do you consider yourself to be part of the conservative Christian movement?

77	Yes
17	No
<u>6</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

37. Do you belong to a pro-family, pro-life, or Christian conservative organization?

72	Yes
18	No
<u>10</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

38. **IF YES [Q37=1]**, how did you come to join this organization? [N=812]

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
a. I searched for a group to join	14	86
b. Literature at a political event	7	93
c. A friend from my religious community asked me to join	14	86
d. Someone else asked me	2	98
e. I saw an ad or notice for the group	24	76
f. Literature at a religious community event	21	79
g. A friend from outside of my religious community asked me to join	5	95
h. I received direct mail or email solicitation	54	46

39. **IF YES [Q37=1]**, do you *regularly* engage in the following activities? [N=812]

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
a. Attend local meetings of the group	17	83
b. Work with allied groups	19	81
c. Hold a leadership position	12	88
d. Participate in group activities or projects	27	73
e. Pay dues or donate money to the group	90	10
f. Receive a newsletter or other materials	89	11

40. **IF YES [Q37=1]**, does this group do any of the following kinds of activities? [N=812]

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
a. Contact public officials	82	18
b. Conduct voter registration drives	38	62
c. Educate citizens on issues	87	13
d. Draft legislation	26	74
e. Urge members to contact federal officials	82	18
f. Conduct get out the vote programs	47	53
g. Participate in election campaign	42	58
h. Conduct awareness campaigns	70	30

41. **IF YES [Q37=1]**, does this group receive support from any of these sources? [N=812]

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
a. Support from members	90	10
b. Support from a political party	3	97
c. Support from businesses	16	84
d. Support from churches or ministries groups	39	61
e. Support from foundations or charities	24	76
f. Support from allied groups	19	81

Q.42 HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

43. How do you feel about the following statements?

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
a. The main cause of America's problems is moral decay.	62	30	3	2	*	3
b. We should tolerate diverse views on morality.	3	16	9	33	34	5
c. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
d. The main cause of America's problems is poverty and discrimination	1	3	8	49	36	3
e. Social justice is at the heart of all authentic religious values	12	25	20	25	12	6
f. Clergy and congregations should stay out of politics.	3	5	6	35	48	3
g. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
h. We should encourage ethnic, racial, and religious diversity in society	9	33	23	21	8	6
i. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
j. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
k. If enough people were brought to Christ, social ills would take care of themselves	29	38	14	12	3	4
l. The U.S. has prospered when it has obeyed God	44	33	13	4	1	5
m. We must maintain a strict separation of church and state.	7	14	12	31	31	5
n. Religious people should cooperate in politics even if they disagree on religious questions	15	42	17	12	8	6
o. It is necessary to believe in God in order to be a moral person.	16	21	12	39	8	4
p. HELD FOR FUTHER ANALYSIS						

44. What is your opinion of the following groups and leaders?

Groups...	<i>Very Favorable</i>		<i>Not Sure</i>		<i>Very Unfavorable</i>		<i>Ref.</i>	<i>I am a Member or contributor</i>
	<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(5)</i>	<i>--</i>		
a. Christian Coalition	25	30	27	3	1	14	--	6
b. Prison Fellowship	46	22	19	1	*	12		16
c. Family Research Council	44	17	22	1	*	16		16
d. Bread for the World	7	11	56	2	*	24		2
e. Concerned women for America	38	18	27	2	1	14		18
f. Evangelicals for Social Action	3	6	60	4	2	25		*
g. Madison Project	6	4	61	1	*	28		4
h. Focus on the Family	60	19	9	1	*	11		26
i. Vision America/Patriot Pastors	4	5	61	1	*	29		1
j. Susan B. Anthony List	23	12	40	2	1	22		12
k. National Right to Life	65	17	6	1	*	11		31
l. Catholic Alliance	18	13	44	2	1	22		2
m. American Family Association	32	15	31	1	*	21		13
n. National Organization for Marriage	12	12	48	1	*	27		3
o. Alliance Defense Fund	37	11	32	1	*	19		18
p. Campaign for Working Families	21	6	46	1	*	26		11
q. American Center for Law & Justice	46	14	23	2	*	15		20
Leaders...								
a. Barack Obama	1	3	8	18	65	5		--
b. Sarah Palin	53	33	7	2	1	4		--
c. Pat Robertson	11	32	33	13	4	7		--
d. Joe Biden	*	2	8	23	62	5		--
e. John McCain	12	54	15	13	2	4		--
f. Hillary Clinton	*	2	5	25	63	5		--
g. Jesse Jackson	0	1	5	14	75	6		--
h. Mike Huckabee	39	38	12	5	2	4		--

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

45. Religious affiliation (please be specific as possible)

54	Evangelical Protestant
9	Mainline Protestant
35	Roman Catholic
1	Other Christians
*	Jewish
*	Unaffiliated
<u>1</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

45a. My church or religious community should:

88	Strive to preserve its traditional beliefs and practices
7	Be willing to adjust traditions in light of new ideas
1	Strive to adopt modern beliefs and practices
<u>4</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

46. Do any of the following describe your religious views?

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
a. Liberal	1	99
b. Progressive	1	99
c. Ecumenical	10	90
d. Interfaith	3	97
e. Mainline	9	91
f. born-again	48	52
g. Charismatic	12	88
h. Pentecostal	6	94
i. Evangelical	46	54
j. Traditional	49	51
k. Fundamentalist	20	80

47. How important is religion in your life?

78	Extremely important
18	Very important
2	Somewhat important
1	Not too important
*	Not at all important
<u>1</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

48. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend worship services?

52	More than once a week
37	Once a week
5	Several times a month
2	A few times a year
2	Seldom/Never
<u>2</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

49. Which comes *closest* to your view of the Scriptures?

48	The actual Word of God, to be taken literally
36	The inspired Word of God, but not to be taken literally on all points
10	Contains the Word of God, but reflects the historical context in which it was written
2	One important source of wisdom about God and humankind
*	Ancient books of moral precepts, stories, and legends
<u>4</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

50. Gender:

59	Male
40	Female
<u>1</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

51. State of residence:

11	Northeast
26	Midwest
29	South
21	West
<u>13</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

52. Size of place:

25	Rural/small town
16	Small city
13	Suburbs of medium city
11	Medium city
19	Suburbs of major city
12	Major city
<u>4</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

53. Age:

2	Under 35
14	35-50
32	51-65
49	Over 65
<u>3</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

54. Marital Status:

66	Married
4	Remarried
13	Widowed
5	Divorced/separated
*	Partnered
9	Never Married
<u>2</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

55. Do you have school-aged children?

17	Yes
80	No
<u>3</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

56. If YES, do your children attend: **[BASED ON TOTAL]**

7	Public school
4	Christian school
3	Parochial school
3	Home school
*	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

57. Race:

95	White
1	African American
1	Hispanic
*	Asian
<u>3</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

58. Education:

1	Less than high school
8	High school graduate
19	Some college/technical training
30	College graduate
40	Post-graduate training or degree
<u>2</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

59. Occupation

35	Current
42	Retired
<u>23</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

60. Approximate 2008 family income:

6	Under \$25,000
16	\$25,000-\$49,999
14	\$50,000-\$74,999
11	\$75,000-\$99,999
15	\$100,000-\$149,999
9	\$150,000-\$199,999
4	\$200,000-\$250,000
10	Over \$250,000
<u>15</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Thank you for your time and consideration!